

Read the poem "My Shadow." Then answer questions 1-6.

My Shadow

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow--
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,
And he sometimes goes so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.
He stays so close behind me, he's a coward you can see;
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an errant sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

by Robert Lewis Stevenson



"My Shadow" from A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES by Robert Lewis Stevenson, illustrated by Catherine Garant.

1 What is the poem **mostly** about?

- A how a shadow grows
- B what a shadow likes to do at night
- C how a shadow looks
- D what a shadow is like

2 Read this line from the poem.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play.

In this line, the word notion means –

- F A game
- G An idea
- H A toy
- J A friend

3 Use the diagram to answer the question below.

How Shadow Acts
He is very, very, like me
The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow
Stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed

Which phrase best fits the empty box?

- A what can be the use of him
 - B I'd think shame to stick to nursie
 - C before the sun was up
 - D shadow sticks to me
- 4 At the end of the poem, why does the speaker say his shadow was fast asleep in bed?
- F His shadow doesn't like the shinning dew on every buttercup.
 - G His shadow is lazy.
 - H He could not see his shadow before the sun was up.
 - J His shadow liked to jump into his bed.



Occasion Thinking Guide
Fiction, Literary Nonfiction, Poetry or Drama

Occasion What is the link? idea, setting, series of happenings, or situation	A boy's shadow
Significant Characters	A boy, his shadow
Outcome	A boy observes his shadow then cleverly describes it as being lazy because he doesn't see before the sun was up.

Teacher Answer Key:

1.D 2.G 3.D 4.H